

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07460 280706Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OES-07
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R 261610Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7942
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R A D D E E / U S N A T O A D D E D //

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, UR, US

SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA CRITIQUE OF PRESIDENT CARTER

SUMMARY: IZVESTIYA HAS LONG COMMENTARY MAY 26 FROM NEW YORK BY
VITALIY KOBYSH CONTAINING MOST DETAILED PERSONAL CRITICISM
OF PRESIDENT CARTER YET TO APPEAR IN SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS.
ALTHOUGH WRITTEN IN MEASURED STYLE, PIECE IS UNREMITTINGLY
NEGATIVE IN ASSESSING NEW PRESIDENT. KOBYSH FOCUSES ON
BOTH INTERNAL AND FOREIGN POLICIES. PRESIDENT
IS ACCUSED OF TAKING "CONSERVATIVE" PATH EVEN THOUGH THOSE
WHO CAMPAIGNED FOR HIM AND VOTED FOR HIM EXPECTED MORE LIBERAL
POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07460 280706Z

1. KOBYSH REVIEWS, WITH ACCENT ON THE NEGATIVE, U.S.
INTERNAL SITUATION AT TIME OF LAST YEAR'S ELECTIONS
NOTING PROBLEMS CAUSED BY VIETNAM, WATERGATE, LOCKHEED,
CIA/FBI SCANDALS AND POOR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND
CLAIMS CARTER PROMISED, AND VOTERS EXPECTED, "A BROAD
PROGRAM OF CHANGE" IN MANY AREAS. AFTER RUNNING
THOUGH LONG LIST OF CHANGES "CARTER PROMISED" (ON

INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, CRIME, MILITARY SPENDING, CIA/FBI, AND "NEW HORIZONS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS")
AUTHOR CLAIMS CARTER HAS NOT ACTED AS HE PROMISED, BUT HAD TURNED TO THE "RIGHT" AND AS A RESULT OPPOSITION TO HIS PROGRAMS IS GROWING. HE QUOTES JOSEPH KRAFT THAT "THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS POSSIBLY THE MOST CONSERVATIVE DEMOCRATIC REGIME IN THIS CENTURY," AND SENATOR MCGOVERN THAT ONE MIGHT WONDER IN LOOKING AT CURRENT ECONOMIC POLICIES, WHO WON LAST AUTUMN'S ELECTION.

2. ON FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES KOBYSH IS EQUALLY CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT FOR NOT REDUCING MILITARY SPENDING, FOR CONDITIONING CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTED PRINCIPALLY AT THE "SOCIALIST" STATES, AND FOR MISHANDLING SALT BY TRYING FOR ONE-SIDED MILITARY ADVANTAGES AND REJECTING PREVIOUSLY AGREED U.S.-SOVIET PROPOSALS. KOBYSH CONCLUDES BY QUOTING FROM WALL STREET JOURNAL THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL ENCOUNTER SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS AND IN NEXT PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN IF HE IS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS ON SALT.

3. COMMENT: UP TO NOW SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS HAS BEEN RESTRAINED IN CRITICIZING PRESIDENT BY NAME AND HAS NOT DEVOTED FULL-LENGTH COMMENTARY TO PERSONAL CRITICISM. BUT IT APPEARS THAT GLOVES ARE OFF NOW AND THAT STRONG CRITIQUES DIRECTED AT PRESIDENT PERSONALLY ARE PERMITTED. KOBYSH'S ATTACK ON PRESIDENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 07460 280706Z

CARTER FOLLOWS BY ONE DAY STRONGLY WORDED TASS PIECE IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ATTACKING PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI (WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS FULL FBIS TEXT OF TASS PIECE WHICH APPEARED ON ENGLISH WIRE MAY 24). WHILE TASS CONCENTRATED ITS FIRE ON BRZEZINSKI FOR HIS STATEMENTS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, IZVESTIYA CHOSE TO HIGHLIGHT ALLEGED FAILINGS OF PRESIDENT ACROSS THE BOARD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PRESS COMMENTS, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING, ALLEGATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: SOPN, UR, US, IZVESTIYA, (CARTER, JIMMY)
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